

Appl. No. 10/027,992

REMARKS

Claims 10, 18 and 22 are amended. Claim 23 is added. Claims 11-13 and 18-23 are pending in the application.

Applicant acknowledges the indicated allowability of claims 10-13 and the subject matter of claim 22. Independent claim 10 is amended to provide an improved claim format. The amendment of claim 10 is not intended to limit the scope of the claims.

Claims 18-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takahashi, EP1026284 in view of Batra, U.S. Patent No. 4,311,522. Without admission as to the propriety of the Examiner's rejection, independent claim 18 is amended to recite a master alloy comprising high purity copper and a micro-alloy grain stabilizer comprising silver which is indicated by the Examiner to be allowable (present Action at page 3).

Claim 22 is amended to properly depend from independent claim 18. Dependent claims 19-22 are allowable for at least the reason that they depend from allowable base claim 18.

New claim 23 does not add "new matter" to the application since such is fully supported by the specification as originally filed. Claim 23 is supported by the specification at, for example, page 2, lines 28-30; page 13, lines 14-25; and the claims as originally filed. Claim 23 is allowable over the art of record for at least the reason that it depends from allowable base claim 18.

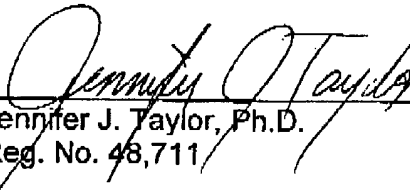
For the reasons discussed above, pending claims 11-13 and 18-23 are allowable. Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests formal allowance of such pending claims in the Examiner's next action.

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Respectfully submitted,

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